

THE CAUCASIAN

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SEE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CAUCASIAN

The General Assembly adjourned at 8 o'clock last Tuesday night, but it is impossible for us to get all of the proceedings in this issue. The next issue of THE CAUCASIAN will not only contain the remainder of the proceedings but also a review of many of the important matters about the legislature which the public should know.

See that the next issue of THE CAUCASIAN is read by as many voters as possible. Every good Populist in the State should try and send in a club of at least five new subscribers so that they can receive and read the next issue and every issue for the next year. We begin the fight at once to redeem the State from the blight and curse of monopoly rule. We begin the fight to elect the majority of the next legislature true and tried Populists. Let every patriot put his shoulder to the wheel and we will do it.

Ever since the hot fight which arose between the Populists and Republicans on the Southern Railway question, there have been vague suggestions and fugacious hints that the Populists and Democrats would form a coalition for the next election. If there ever was a possibility of such a thing, it has been knocked into froth and fog by the Democrats by their record on this ninety-nine year lease question. The next coalition will probably be between Democrats and Populists, headed by the magnate of the Southern Railway.

A GREAT FIGHT ON THE 99 YEAR LEASE—TWO GREAT SCHEMES.

It has already been stated that two facts are in the minds of the people concerning the "99 year railroad lease." They are as follows:

1st. That this lease was secretly arranged.

2d. That a bid of \$400,000 a year has been offered for the North Carolina railroad, whereas the secret "99 year lease" was made to the Southern Railway corporation for \$250,000 a year. We stated last week that a bill had originally been drawn which would have annulled the lease if it could have passed. This bill was as amended to give the Governor power to bring suit to test the validity of the lease, and as amended in this manner, it passed the House. It was then sent to the Senate, that body passed a substitute making the time of the lease 30 years instead of 99 years, but did not make any effort to secure any more money for the State than was agreed upon by the secret 99 year lease. This substitute was passed by a combination of Republicans, Democrats and ex-Populists. The Populists all voted against it.

This substitute was then sent back to the House and referred to the committee on railroads. It was made a special order for Friday, March 5th, at 12 o'clock, and about that time began one of the greatest and most exciting fights that has ever occurred in the legislative halls of North Carolina. The committee which had been considering the bill had reason to question the constitutionality of some parts of the 30 year substitute as passed by the Senate, and when the hour of 12 o'clock arrived on Friday, Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, for the committee reported this fact, and offered a resolution requesting the Supreme Court to give a ruling on opinion on the points in doubt. The railroad tools, however, wanted to get some praise from their director and boss just as the tools in the Senate had done, and wanted to go ahead and pass the Senate substitute without it being constitutional or not. They didn't care a cent about the constitutionality of it was going to get in the way of the will of their pet boss, the Southern railroad. It is a noticeable fact that corporations, combines and trusts never care for law nor constitution when they are grasping greed is threatened, and their tools are pretty much the same way.

The railroads wanted to bring matters to a vote at once. They began to cry down the resolution of inquiry to the Supreme Court, and in their efforts to do this they raised a tumult and confusion which was a little short of a riot. A scene occurred which would have been ended by the Molly Maguires or by a lot of wild anarchists—a scene which was a disgrace to the State. The row was led by Democrats—no doubt of that. Every eye witness who is willing to tell the truth about this matter would be willing to testify to this fact.

In this awful and humiliating dis-honouring because it was inspired and aroused by the adherents and supporters of a great railroad corporation as against the interests of the people of North Carolina, Dr. Alexander, of Tyrrell, moved to adjourn. Capt. C. A. Cook, of War-

ren, who was in the chair put the motion and declared the House adjourned.

But the railroad tools seemed to be wild with anxiety, rage and desperation. They were apparently utterly bereft of reason and were on the border land of treason. When Mr. Cook stepped from the stand, a Democrat shouted out: "I move we elect Mr. Freeman (Rep.), Speaker pro tem." A thundering roar of eyes greeted this proposition, and shortly after Freeman approached the stand. He may not have intended to take the Speaker's chair, but if he ever did he was stopped by the warning voice of Mr. Lusk who cried out that such a proceeding was treason and rebellion against the State. Freeman got upon the stand, but instead of taking the chair said that the Journal showed that a recess had been taken at three o'clock. In a few minutes the chamber was almost empty. If he railroad revolutionists had not been warned to stop, they might have gone to such lengths as would have involved them in treason and subjected them to arrest and trial. Such are the lengths to which railroad corporations and their supporters will go when faced by the staunch and patriotic representatives of the people. The railroad tools were in the majority—somehow it seems that railroads are always in the majority when there are enough Republicans and Democrats to make a majority. This occurrence and scene showed that this State—the State of North Carolina—as at present represented by its legislature, is almost if not in the coils of a great foreign corporation, and it will always be until the people shall be fully aroused to the peril of the two old parties and elect a legislature composed of a majority of Populists and Patriots. Both old parties have been tried? Well they be tried again.

It is difficult to tell the story of a continuation of the fight, and how firmly and long some true North Carolinians and patriots stood against the overwhelming cohorts of corruption greed and finally vanquished them. We give some particulars of the story elsewhere. It fills several columns of several issues of the daily papers, and it is impractical for us to give it in full in a weekly issue. On Friday afternoon, when the House reassembled, a resolution was offered by Dockery making the Senate substitute the special order for 11 o'clock on Saturday, and that the Supreme Court be requested to give an opinion on the doubtful points by that hour. At that hour the great fight was renewed, and from then until 12 o'clock—the beginning of the Sabbath day, the little band of patriots fought, and turned and doubled and flibustered and defeated the big railroad ring at every turn. On Monday morning the fight was again renewed, and those men who had stuck by the people managed to table and thus defeat the scheme of the railroads to get by legislative enactment, a sanction of the terms of the secret lease for thirty years. It is true the representatives of the people did not get what they wanted; but it is also true that the people will yet have a chance to elect representatives who may show to the world that North Carolina is a sovereign State, and that she is not in the hopeless grasp of corporate power. We have faith in the people. They now have the case before them. Let them send a Populist majority to the next legislature and the rights and interests of the State will be redeemed and preserved.

During the struggle between the men who were standing by the people and the men who were working for the railroads in the House last Saturday, the railroad tools bled the people's supporters. The advocates of the people promptly shouted: "That's the hiss of steam from the Southern railroad train." And they might have added, "all the passengers are riding on railroad passes."

BE AWARE OF THIS TIME.

Populists all remember how the National Democratic convention stole the Peoples Party platform and then claimed it as their own. They did this because they could no longer dodge the real issues. This railroad lease question is going to be the main issue in the next State campaign. It is going to be an issue to which all the people will rally. There will be a landslide towards it, and the slide will begin very soon. The Peoples Party was the only party that do-lared opposition to this lease in its platform last year. It is now become a great question like the financial question and the two old parties can no longer dodge it and fool the people. See if one of the old parties does not try to steal this issue also. But the Peoples Party is in this fight because it is right and we will welcome help and co-operation from any source. Let those who favor corporate reform and financial reform rally to our banner and enlist in the fight for the people and good government.

When the Democrats and Republicans and ex-Populists combined to defeat the bill to test or annul the 99 year lease, they proved strong enough to defeat it in the Senate. Then a large number of the members of this "triple alliance" went down to the Southern Railway office to hold a jollification and be patted on the back by their railroad boss.

Some Corrections.
Please allow me space to correct some misstatements which appeared in the letter from Campbell, N. C., Feb. 25th. In quoting Pritchard as saying: "I stand flat-footed on the Republican platform and I am not in favor of the free and unlimited issue of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, the word NOT was left out. In saying that Skinner Boling Co. have just received the DEMONSTRATION of the Populists and all true men, the word RECOMMENDATION appeared for DEMONSTRATION. Also in the statement, "I think can truthfully say that there are not one-half dozen who do not consider their referring to the Boling Co. as traitors and political scoundrels, the words who do not were omitted. Please allow this correction to appear in your next issue.

W. J. BEALE.

March April May

Are the months in which to give special attention to the condition of your physical health. If you pass safely through these months and find yourself strong and vigorous on the arrival of warmer weather, you may reasonably expect that you will be well in summer. Now is the time to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, as traitors and political scoundrels, blood must be purified, enriched and vitalized, and because Hood's Sarsaparilla is the only true blood purifier prominently in the public eye today. Hood's Sarsaparilla has power to make you healthy and guard your system against disease.

THE STORY OF THE FIGHT.

The Minions of Corporation Power Precipitate a Riot in the House.

THOSE WHO STOOD FIRM

Against the Power and Machination of Railroad Night—The Bad Scene of a Majority of Representatives of North Carolina Standing for Greed Against the People—The Populists as Firm as a Rock.

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California is one of the many States whose legislature is moving for reduction of telegraph rates to 10 cents. Lower railroad rates are also a necessity. The corporations will voluntarily reduce nothing, and the average R. R. commission will do nothing unless the corporations give the nod. The people are driven to demand lower rates from legislative action.

It is said that Gov. Russell sometimes indulges in curse words when talking about the way the legislature is going. The people must not condemn the Governor too severely. This writer has lived a blameless life for more than a quarter of a century, but is now selecting some choice curse words and committing them to memory.—Progressive Farmer.

We have always told you so. When it comes to a square fight between big corporations or combines and the people, the Democrats and Republicans quickly get together, and stand by the side of the railroad tools against the people. There never was a clearer case in point than the record just made by the Republicans and Democrats on this "99 year lease question."

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We wish you would just look at the railroad plank in the last National Democratic platform, and then just look how the Democrats voted in the legislature on the railroad question. There is a big lesson here.

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McKinley's Cabinet Confirmed.

Secretary of State—John Sherman, of Ohio.

Secretary of the Treasury—Lyman J. Gage, of Illinois.

Secretary of War—Russell A. Alger, of Michigan.

Secretary of the Interior—Joseph McKenna, of California.

Postmaster-General—James A. Gary, of Maryland.

Secretary of the Navy—John D. Long, of Massachusetts.

Secretary of Agriculture—Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York.

Secretary of Agriculture—James Wilson, of Iowa.

These were the nominations which President McKinley sent to the Senate. They were promptly confirmed, and the gentlemen named in the above list now constitute the official cabinet advisers of the new Republican administration.

The appointment of Senator Sherman to be Secretary of State was confirmed immediately after the Senate went into executive session, as a compliment to their former colleague. The other nominations were referred to committee, as is the usual custom. The members of the committee did not even leave the Senate chamber, but a recess being taken for a short time the members of the committee were polled, and a unanimous favorable report was made. This was more a matter of form than anything else, for there was practically no opposition to any of the nominations.

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Nashville Cure

"About three years ago I was troubled with eruptions on my face, which appeared like scurfs. I thought at first they came from diseased teeth and I had five of my teeth extracted. My health was so much impaired that I was advised to take Hood's Sarsaparilla to build me up, and I bought six bottles. Before I had taken half of this amount I began to feel better. I could rest better at night and felt refreshed in the morning. I gained in flesh, and when I had finished the six bottles the eruptions on my face had all disappeared. My wife has taken Hood's Sarsaparilla for nervousness with great benefit." J. R. BODINE, Nashville, N. C.

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